

423 Snowfinch**AGEING**

2 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile similar to a **female**, but with browner head, white on tail with buff tinge; fresh plumage.

Adult with worn plumage in summer.

After the **postbreeding/postjuvenile** moult, ageing is not possible using plumage characters.

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, usually finished in November.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

SNOWFINCH (*Montifringilla nivalis*)**IDENTIFICATION**

16-18 cm. Dark brown upperparts; dark wing and tail coverts; white underparts; wings with white secondaries and black primaries; white tail with black central tail feathers; grey head; black bill in spring and yellow in winter.

SIMILAR SPECIES

This species is unmistakable.

SEXING

Macho with crown and nape grey-bluish; neck ash grey; centre of throat black, in autumn partly concealed; rump, uppertail coverts and outer primaries black; lesser wing coverts white or tipped black; primary coverts white with black spots on tips; black bill in **breeding** season; wing longer than 121 mm. **Female** with crown and nape brownish-grey; neck buffish-grey; centre of throat partly blackish, in autumn almost entirely concealed; rump uppertail coverts and outer primaries blackish-brown; lesser wing coverts with brown tips; primary coverts with white spot only on the inner web and brown-grey on the outer web; yellow bill with black tip in **breeding** season; wing shorter than 116 mm. **Juveniles** cannot be sexed.

STATUS IN ARAGÓN

Resident. Breeds in the highest mountains in the Pyrenees; in winter in lower areas.